



Re: action level in monitoring plan

Jose Torres to: Elizabeth Cumberland

Cc: Stacey Dwyer, Philip Dellinger, Ray Leissner

10/24/2012 10:37 AM

From: Jose Torres/R6/USEPA/US
To: Elizabeth Cumberland <elizabeth42@earthlink.net>
Cc: Stacey Dwyer/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Philip Dellinger/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Ray Leissner/R6/USEPA/US@EPA

Good morning Ms. Cumberland:

Thank you for your message and for bringing up this subject. At this moment, I am sorry to say that I do not know of a clear answer to your question. I believe the permit stipulates that the operator must restore the aquifer in the event of observed excursions at the monitoring well ring. However, I am not aware of an action plan by the operator, or TCEQ, in the event of increased concentrations in drinking water supply wells within the area of review.

I consulted with TCEQ earlier this year about the possibility of monitoring water quality in the drinking water supply wells downgradient from the Garcia Hill wells in light of the increased uranium concentrations observed at the W-24 well. In a phone conversation, I was told that TCEQ would not commit to such monitoring.

I will review the language in the permits and consult with my colleagues on this matter and get back to you. Have a nice day.

José Eduardo Torres - 6WQ-SG
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Elizabeth Cumberland [Mr. Torres, Will you please explain this -- w...](#)

10/24/2012 08:39:42 AM

From: Elizabeth Cumberland <elizabeth42@earthlink.net>
To: Jose Torres/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 10/24/2012 08:39 AM
Subject: action level in monitoring plan

Mr. Torres,

Will you please explain this -- what is the point of monitoring the uranium concentration in the water wells within the 1/4 mile area of review, such as W24 (Garcia)? I have not found an action level in any TCEQ document. And, other than when in late 2004/early 2005 the TCEQ inspector obtained a water sample of that well, after becoming aware of the investigation by Region VI, I have not seen evidence of any action taken in spite of rising uranium concentrations.

In your experience, is an action level set in a monitoring plan? Or does the uranium mining industry and the TCEQ simply sit there and watch things get worse, while never making a decision to take some action?

I see that the recommendation was made by a hydrologist for Kleberg County in 1985.

Elizabeth